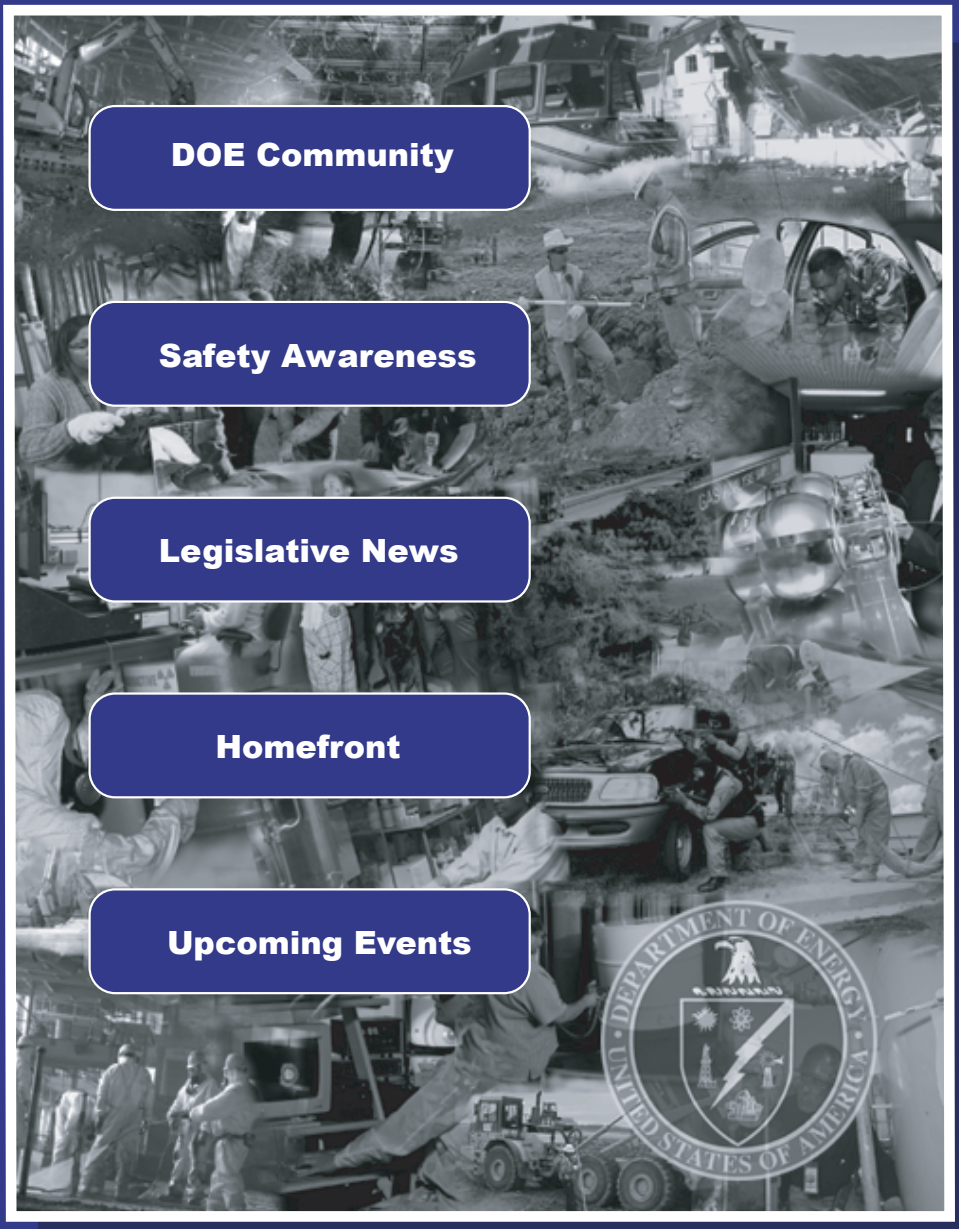
Department of Energy

VPP

STARBURST

YOUR ONLINE RESOURCE TO PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN SAFETY EXCELLENCE



Spring 2003

Department of Energy
VPP STARBURST
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YOUR ONLINE RESOURCE TO PROMOTE AND SUSTAIN SAFETY EXCELLENCE

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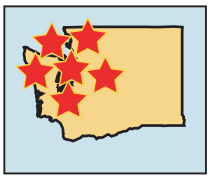
DOE Community

HANFORD SITE AND VPPPA SCHEDULE SIMULTANEOUS EVENTS



Hanford site will be hosting its Ninth Annual Health and Safety Expo (Expo 2003) on May 6-8, 2003, at the Trade Recreation Agricultural Center (TRAC) in Pasco, Washington. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy; Fluor Hanford, Inc.; Bechtel Hanford, Inc.; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory; CH2M HILL Hanford Group; Numatec Hanford Company; Protection Technology Hanford; Spent Nuclear Fuel Project; Duratek Federal Services of Hanford and Hanford Environmental Health Foundation, Expo 2003 will showcase information, equipment, supplies, and success stories that promote the health and safety of workers both on the job and at home. In addition to space for 202 exhibitors, special events are planned.

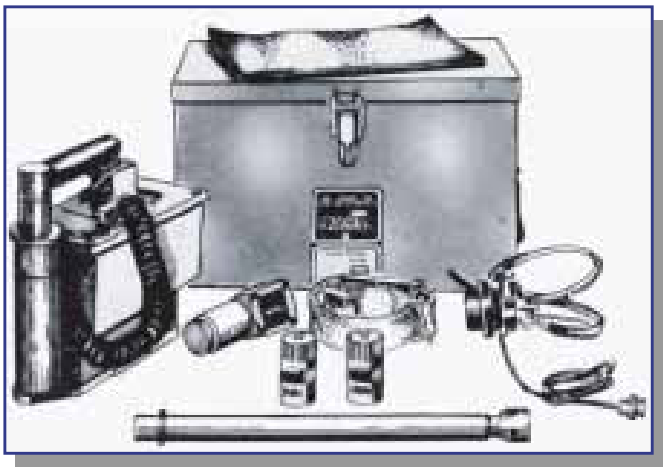
Two special events scheduled are the Vehicle Crash Demonstration (VAD) and the Bicycle Skills Rodeo. VAD is a re-creation of fatality and/or injury vehicle crashes, and is coordinated by Protection Technology Hanford . VAD participants include the Hanford Fire Department, Benton County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Patrol, Mel's Inter City Collision, the Franklin County Coroner, Columbia Memorial Funeral Chapel, Northwest Medstar Medical Flight Response, and Fluor Hanford Utilities. The Bicycle Skills Rodeo will feature six different courses, designed to test volunteers' bicycling safety skills: courses are divided by age groups. Attendees are encouraged to bring their bicycles and participate in the fun. Helmets and parent's permission are required to enter the Rodeo. Helmet fitting and free bicycle safety checks will be provided.

During the Hanford Expo 2003, the Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association (VPPPA) is hosting its VPP Application Workshop and Region X Chapter Conference, also to be held in Pasco, Washington. The VPP Application Workshop is scheduled for May 4, 2003; the conference is scheduled for May 5 – 7, 2003. Both VPPPA events will be held at the West Coast Hotel, in Pasco, WA. Hotel reservations may be made by calling (509) 544-3913.

VPP participants are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to attend both the Expo 2003 and the events planned by VPPPA. If you have any additional questions about Expo 2003, you can access the Hanford Site's Expo 2003 web page at *http://www.hanford.gov/safety/expo/index.html*. Additional information regarding VPPPA regional conferences and workshops in your area may be found at *http://www.vpppa.org/Calendar/index.cfm.*

Announcement

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RADIATION WORKER SAFETY PUBLICATIONS



The Office of Worker Protection Policy and Programs (EH-52) is proud to make available two publications that address safety of radiological workers.

The first, entitled Radiation in Perspective, is a pamphlet that discusses the nature of ionizing radiation, its potential health effects, how to address exposure to ionizing radiation, and how to take an active role in managing your own safety and health concerns.

The second, entitled Radiation Detection Instrumentation at the Department of Energy, provides an overview of historical and current radiation monitoring and personnel dosimetry capabilities used by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). It describes the purpose and process of radiation dose assessments and reassessments, enabling readers to understand the capabilities and limitations of measuring radiation dose.

These publications will be printed and distributed throughout DOE and can also be found online at: *http://tis.eh.doe.gov/whs/rhmwp.*

BEHAVIOR-BASED SAFETY PROGRAMS AND VPP

By Bob Waters, Office of Safety and Health

Developed in the late 1970s, the Behavior-Based Safety Process (BBSP) is a voluntary process to protect workers from injury, and one that fosters "safe behaviors" by providing a feedback mechanism through demonstration of significant and tangible decreases in "at-risk behaviors." To foster these "safe behaviors," BBSP requires five components, including the following: Establishment of Mission and Scope, Safety Assessment, Design of Process, Implementation of the Safety Process, and Maintenance of the Safety Process.

When establishing a mission and scope to utilize BBSP, managers will find that BBSP is easily adaptable to many different types of implementation. In particular, BBSP can be used in a focused application, or site-wide. Management should determine the scope as a preliminary step, and tailor the BBSP to any identifiable problems or necessary resources.

The core of BBSP is the Safety Assessment, which identifies any applicable "at-risk behaviors," and conditions leading to these behaviors. This assessment can be performed in a variety of ways; the most common way of assessing these behaviors is by evaluation of prior incidents, and by communicating with workers about what they perceive are the job and/or site risks.

Once risk factors are determined, management can apply these findings into a checklist. Normally, a checklist is developed with peers acting as observers. The observers (i.e., workers) provide feedback to the person performing a task as soon as the task is completed, noting any "at-risk behaviors" and "safe behaviors."

Once the process has been implemented, management collects data to be used in calculating a measure of the processes' performance, also known as the Safe Behaviors Index. In particular, the Safe Behaviors Index measures the percentage of safe behaviors performed. For the process to continue, however, management must provide feedback to workers about the status of the Safety Process. This feedback is crucial to the Maintenance of the Safety Process. BBSP can be an effective tool when applied as part of a Voluntary Protection Program (VPP): its primary strengths are its adaptability, and that it is a continuous learning process.

DOE Safety Results

The Behavior-Based Safety Process has been used, and is still used, as an effective tool throughout the Complex. DOE has determined that when safe behaviors improve, other safety measures improve, and safety costs are reduced. For example, BBSPs have been implemented successfully at Savannah River Site (SRS), the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPRO), Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL), and Lawrence Berkley Laboratory (LBL). In every case where it has been applied, BBSP has led to an increase in safe behaviors and a decrease in accidents. Figure 1 demonstrates the decrease in Total Reportable Cases (TRC) for these sites.

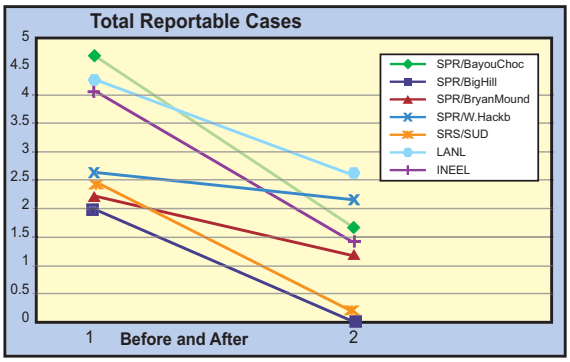


Figure 1. TRC rate changes at DOE BBSP sites

Cost Effectiveness- for the Complex

A secondary benefit to BBSP is that it saves money for safety programs. One of the more mature DOE sites, Strategic Petroleum Reserve, has reported a reduced cost index since implementing BBSP. Below, Figure 2 demonstrates this.

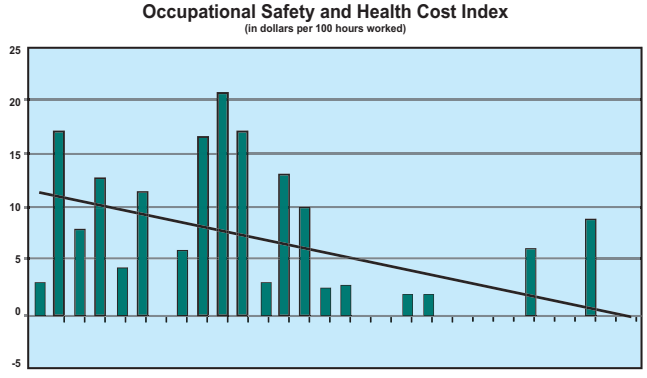


Figure 2 The Effect of BBSP on the SPRO Cost Index

Data reported from another DOE site, Savannah River Site's Utility Division demonstrates similar results. As TRC decreased from 2.5 to 0.2 annually, the required budget for safety programs decreased from $547,000 to $354,000 annually. Figure 3 illustrates these results.

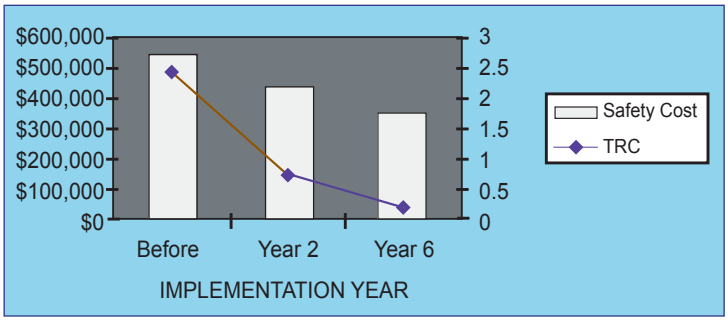


Figure 3. Changes in TRC and safety costs after implementing BBSP at SRC

Enhancement of Other Safety Management Systems

The flexibility of the Behavior-Based Safety Process allows its use within other safety management systems. In particular, BBSP can and should be used as a complementary tool to ISMSs and VPPs because it augments many of the features and goals of these management systems.

Safety Tips

- **Train managers regarding contractor and subcontractor activities so that they are informed, and can recognize if a task is being performed safely.**
- **Keep all employees informed: provide relevant industry news, safety magazines and newsletters in common areas (e.g., cafeteria) where everyone has access to them.**

WSSRAP USED SAFE WORK PLANS TO ENSURE WORKER SAFETY

Last year, the Weldon Springs Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) completed its mission and closed its site. Its success has been attributed to its various safety initiatives: one example of this, safe work plans, is detailed below.

At Weldon Springs Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP), as at many sites, most remediation activities are performed by subcontractors, who are then monitored by the primary contractor and/or by DOE. Contractors and DOE have the responsibility of maintaining awareness of workplace hazards and changing conditions, to ensure that subcontractors are performing their work safely.

WSSRAP addressed this responsibility by requiring subcontractors to prepare a series of safe work plans, designed to detail each activity, how it will be performed, any hazards associated with each task, and all protective measures that need to be implemented to perform the work safely. Before work began, safe work plans were reviewed and approved by representatives from WSSRAP's safety, environmental safety and health, and construction management and operations departments. Workers reviewed and signed the safe work plan before initiating work.

Every morning, all subcontractors at WSSRAP were required to participate in the safe work plan meeting before work began: at these meetings, any changing conditions or special concerns were addressed. Finally, the safe work plans were provided to oversight personnel, to facilitate inspections.

*Content in this article was first presented in an online newsletter for Weldon Springs Site Remedial Action Project's (WSSRAP) **Time Out for Safety**, a program developed and initiated at WSSRAP to enable workers and supervisors an opportunity to pause an activity to address safety concerns.*

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

By Richard D. Shook
www.nv.doe.gov

FORCE-ON-FORCE TRAINING EXERCISES

DOE Protective Force personnel are required to conduct training exercises to ensure they remain competent to perform their assigned security duties. Training exercises expose personnel to hazards they do not normally encounter on a daily basis. To ensure exercises are accomplished in a safe and realistic manner, detailed planning and full adherence to procedures are a necessity. Prior to each exercise WSI/NV conducts a risk/hazard analysis and documents this activity in a Risk Analysis Report (RAR). The document describes the scope of the exercise, identifies key roles and responsibilities, identifies hazards and hazard controls, and provides a process for feedback.

Most exercises employ Engagement Simulation System (ESS) equipment to "simulate" live-fire weapons and provide feedback regarding the accuracy of directed fire. When ESS equipment is used , the key safety objective is to ensure "live" ammunition or weapons are not accidentally introduced to the exercise area. Here are several "must" do actions when conducting ESS training:

- Ensure all players are physically and medically qualified;
- Identify and assign controllers, players and a " safety officer";
- Conduct training for exercise controllers and players;
- Conduct detailed safety briefings for all participants;
- Ensure all "ESS" dedicated weapons are appropriately marked, segregated and secured from other weapons;
- Inspect all ESS weapons to ensure they have been properly modified to preclude the chambering of a live round;
- Segregate, inspect and secure all blank ammunition prior to issue;
- Inspect all exercise vehicles to ensure unauthorized items are not introduced to the exercise area;
- Prior to the start of the exercise, segregate and search each participant and their equipment to ensure the absence of live ammunition or weapons;
- Prior to the start of each exercise scenario, controllers and players must again check their weapons and ammunition to ensure only authorized ESS equipment is being used;
- Upon conclusion of the exercise, ensure all weapons are properly cleared (unloaded); and
- Conduct post-exercise briefing and solicit feedback from participants to identify improvement opportunities.

STRATEGIES TO RAISE SAFETY AWARENESS AND CURTAIL INJURIES

By Starburst Staff

Although worker safety has improved significantly, as demonstrated by DOE-VPP participants, subcontractor illness and injury rates still tend to lag behind employee/contractor rates.

This article is intended to address new approaches, as well as best practices proven to be effective in reducing injury rates.

Bilingual Training Opportunities

Occupational Hazards, an online newsletter, recently addressed safety training for diverse worker populations in an article by Joseph E. Halcarz, Sr. In the article, the author stressed the importance of tailoring training programs to fit the needs of individual employees, particularly employees that do not speak English.

Halcarz notes that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently published results showing that the fatality rate for Hispanic employees climbed by more than 11% percent in 2000, while deaths in all other groups declined. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) attributed this increase, in part, to the language barrier. The author also added that poor training for non-English-speaker workers results in low productivity, high turn-over and increased employer expenses.

Halcarz argued that by providing bilingual safety and health training, companies would find that injury rates would decrease, work force productivity would increase, worker loyalty would increase and insurance expenses would decrease. To accomplish this, he presents criteria to assist companies searching for qualified trainers to provide these services:

- Programs that are recognized by OSHA as a "National Best Practice";
- Bilingual classes that also address cultural issues;
- Programs that recognize the dignity of every worker, and treat all workers (from management to unskilled employees) with courtesy and professionalism.

Finally, Halcarz provides an example of a company that implemented bilingual training, with positive results. A Dallas-area construction company provides every worker with 40 hours of training in basic occupational safety and health procedures, conducted in both English and Spanish. Nearly 8,000 workers have been trained during the last two years. Compared to the national average of 3.9 injuries per 200,000 man-hours, this company has only seen 0.3 injuries. As a result, only $600,000 in workers' compensation claims have been made against the $2.6 million that managers expected to spend in the first year.

Employee-Driven Assessments

The Wisconsin Council of Safety (WCS) strives to educate and motivate people to live safer and healthier lives whether at home, work, school, play or on the highway. For over 80 years, WCS has been committed to reducing human suffering and economic losses through preventable causes. The WCS is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, public education affiliate of *Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce* (WMC) and chartered by the *National Safety Council* (NSC).

Each year, WCS presents its Corporate Award Safety Winners. One of its recent winners, the Medical Products Division of VPI, LLC, produces medical tubing, contract assemblies, and services to the medical device market. The 50-employee company is FDA-registered, GMP-compliant, and ISO-certified. The company has maintained a perfect safety record relating to lost time injuries and its overall incident rate is below the industry average. It recently celebrated its ninth year without a lost time accident and has awarded each employee an extra day of vacation.

What has attributed to this company's success? VPI requires employee involvement, particularly in self-assessments. For example, each month, an employee

from each shift is given a safety checklist in which they must focus on one area of the division, and write down any safety hazards and suggest improvements. The monthly inspections have enabled the company to evaluate areas that might have been overlooked by providing a different perspective. The maintenance department is also required to conduct monthly plant tours to identify and document any potential hazards, from a maintenance perspective.

Secondly, the company works closely with area doctors to help them understand the business and potential injuries. Anytime an employee is injured and requires medical treatment, someone from management accompanies the employee to doctor appointments. The human resources department also provides videotapes to medical providers, outlining what job duties entail to identify possible medical conditions.

Finally, each month, VPI pays every hourly employee one-hour of overtime to attend mandatory safety meetings, and salaried employees are also expected to attend the meetings during one of their shifts. Monthly topics correspond to current division activities and staff are tested through written and on-the-job tests.

Employee Empowerment

At Weldon Springs Site Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP), the "Time Out For Safety" program idea began when one individual asked why a subcontractor was not taking time out for safety issues. His concern was that both workers and supervisors were reluctant to stop work to address safety issues. The "time out" concept evolved as an informal way to pause an activity without a formal work stoppage. To date, this concept has grown and is has now been adopted throughout the site.

At first, some employees were concerned that workers might use "Time Out For Safety" to avoid work. Since work was paused only for safety and health concerns, supervisors and employees began communicating with each other on a different level, resulting in improved relations and prevented accidents. One of the subcontractors had such good results with its participation in the "Time Out For Safety" program, that its regional health and safety manager presented the concept at other company locations.

Key to its success is that the "Time Out For Safety" program is driven by employees, not by procedures. Issues and solutions are discussed each morning, at a daily planning meeting. Employees even designed the program logo, and the site uses this logo on free stickers given to personnel. WSSRAP has learned that by taking time out to address safety concerns, they have empowered employees and reduced injuries at their site.

Preventive Maintenance

At the Kansas City Plant, Honeywell FM&T's Facility Management Service is responsible for preventive and predictive maintenance at the plant. Since applying to the DOE-VPP program three years ago, Honeywell has upgraded its previous preventive program to a comprehensive computerized maintenance management system – MAXIMO.

If any employee finds an item that requires maintenance, he or she can input the request into MAXIMO. The work orders also provide instructions to maintenance personnel to consider the need for high hazard pre-job review. The engineering department will then consult with industrial hygiene and safety departments on items related to safety and health. Next, a risk priority is assigned to each work order. MAXIMO also generates preventive maintenance schedules, based on priority. Fourteen days in advance, MAXIMO sends these schedules to 26 maintenance crews, which consist of electricians, pipefitters, millwrights, and other trade/craft workers.

After a task is completed, crews will input the job status into MAXIMO. If it is not completed, then it will be generated in the next schedule. Employees at KCP indicated that this system has been very effective at keeping equipment in safe working order.

Additionally, KCP continues to evaluate newly acquired equipment prior to operation to establish a baseline schedule for preventive maintenance. KCP's preventive maintenance program has contributed to their excellent worker safety and health records by providing a pro-active process for removing and repairing faulty equipment that would otherwise cause accidents.

Taking Safety Home

The Boldt Company is a national provider of general construction, construction management, design-build and program management services. Boasting 112 years of experience, Boldt, ranked by Engineering News Record as the 52nd largest construction manager and the 101st largest general contractor in the U.S., serves clients in the industrial, pulp and paper, healthcare, education, food and beverage, power, correctional, commercial, manufacturing, and sports facilities markets.

The company is faced with significant safety exposures on a daily basis. It is Boldt's company policy that safety is never compromised for production, and is viewed as an integral part of conducting business. Boldt believes in maintaining a high quality safety program by constantly reviewing its elements for the health and welfare of every employee, subcontractor, customer, visitor, and for the general public.

As part of its Total Quality Management (TQM) program, Boldt communicates the importance of safety through manuals, orientations and safety meetings. The safety department also mails a monthly newsletter to all employees, which covers new safety developments, OSHA news, reminders of company policies, special accomplishments and home safety articles. Boldt also sponsors a wellness program that includes a health newsletter, aerobic classes, and blood screening. By addressing safety and health issues at work and at home, Boldt fosters the employee perception that it values its workers, even when they are not at work.

Creating Unity with PPE

As first reported in the Spring 2002 issue of Protection Update, an online newsletter, Mayor Richard M. Daley, and his commissioner of streets and sanitation, Al Sanchez, adopted the Safer and Brighter campaign, aimed at better protecting the safety of Chicago workers. With this in mind, Sanchez directed his safety director, Kathleen Concannon, to investigate the safety garment industry to find the "brightest" examples available.

With thousands of employees, Chicago could have chosen low-end, one-size-fits-all safety vests from the most convenient sources. Instead, Concannon chose to look for garments that were lighter, cooler, and had less of a tendency to snag on machinery and equipment. At the same time, the city wanted to ensure that the new garments complied with applicable standards for high-visibility garments.

As a result of Safer and Brighter, the City of Chicago required its more than 4,000 Street and Sanitation operational workers to participate in small-group training sessions, followed by distribution of the new high-visibility garments.

City workers later reported that in addition to feeling safer, they felt connected. Employees can easily recognize each other in their familiar bright vests. All the city's "Safer and Brighter" workers also report a new sense of public recognition. With a new visible identity, tourists routinely ask them for directions. According to one city employee, "We are becoming ambassadors of good will for our city.

BARRIERS TO IMPROVE SAFETY PERFORMANCE

When site management decides to implement a safety management program, they do so with the intention of succeeding, by instilling a total safety culture in their employees, and reducing work-related injuries and accidents. With this in mind, however, some programs do fail to achieve these objectives, simply because they may encounter one of seven common barriers that can limit the program's success. These barriers are so common, in fact, they can affect almost any site-wide program, not just a safety-related one. This article outlines those barriers, and how to avoid or overcome them.

Missing the Point

Often, when management implements a safety program, they often use a new program or technique, discovered at a conference or through advertising. Management purchases the appropriate materials

(e.g., workbooks, a facilitator's guide, etc.), and hires an outside consultant to teach the procedures to select personnel. These employees then train other employees while on the job. This cascade training style may instill a cynical attitude within the majority of the site employees, who assume that this new program is simply a temporary solution.

Management has not demonstrated their commitment in the safety program because they have not taught or demonstrated the principles, rationale, research, or corporate mission behind the program.

However, in a Total Safety Culture, everyone participates because everyone understands the principles behind the program, and everyone provides feedback. When employees understand the theory underlying the method, they develop their own belief system to rationalize why they should comply. They can also use the flexibility of the general principles and guidelines to achieve goals in the manner best suited for their jobs.

Lack of Perceived Ownership

Many companies purchase copyrighted safety programs, attempting to tailor them to their site-wide needs. By doing this, however, they cannot "stamp" their company name on the program.

Employees can and will reject a commercially prepared program because they perceive no personal ownership. When employees learn and believe in the principles underlying the program, they willingly customize procedures for their work culture. Additionally, when management and employees work together to make the program their own, they give the program a "label" or identification, and work to keep it relevant and successful.

Inadequate Employee Involvement

Most safety professionals would agree that protecting worker health is not only the safety director's job, but is, in fact, the job of all employees. Actually, line workers and operators are the true safety experts: they recognize where daily hazards lie, how to avoid them, and which employees take unnecessary risks. Properly trained, these employees become the most valuable asset of a successful program, by assisting management in decreasing unsafe or risky behavior, and increasing safe behavior and workplace situations.

Although all the barriers discussed in this article relate to each other, it is this particular barrier—inadequate employee involvement—which is the cornerstone of why, ultimately, the other barriers may lead to the demise of a program.

To avoid this barrier, management must encourage employee participation with positive results (e.g., personal recognition, group celebrations, other rewards), and never force employees (with threats or punishment) to participate.

Invisible Management Support

Management support is implied when they launch a new safety program, in part because they are financially investing in the endeavor. It is critical, though, that this is not the extent of management involvement. Managers need to talk to employees about their own understanding and belief in the principles of the program. They must also recognize individuals and teams, and reward them appropriately when they accomplish program objectives. When upper management takes a keen interest in the principles and progress, and demonstrates this to their employees, this is a good indicator that the safety program will succeed in achieving its objectives

Too Few Champions

When managers and supervisors choose to sit through a series of long presentations to learn how to launch a safety program site-wide, they are making a statement to their employees. When they choose to be pro-active and dedicated to the program, they become champions of the process. These leaders are necessary at all levels of a successful program, including at the operator level. When a few key individuals, at every level, believe in the principles of the program, they commit themselves and encourage others to support the program. The best ways to develop champions at different levels of an organization is to teach potential leaders the program's principles and procedures, how to relay or communicate information to others, and provide them with opportunities to teach co-workers.

Confusing Concepts

Champions of safety programs understand the difference between a purpose and a goal. Purpose reflects the overall mission of a safety program. Goals define a specific outcome from a particular activity or process. For example, the purpose of a safety program may be to achieve a Total Safety Culture, and to experience no work-related injuries. Goals are used to achieve this purpose, and when met, are rewarded to reflect progress toward the ultimate aim of the program. Overall success is demonstrated by meeting a number of goals.

Misinterpreting goals and purpose will confuse and drain participants. For example, one safety leader felt pressure to avoid recordable injuries than to achieve program participation. His motivation, confidence, and optimism were sapped because he feared being evaluated on the basis of numbers beyond his control This barrier occurs whenever managers disregard the critical distinction between achieving goals and purpose, expect short-term solutions to large problems, and/or fall victim to poor measures of success.

Poor Measures of Success

When management confuses purpose and goals, an easy trap to fall into because numbers are a standard quantifiable measure of success, they are not taking into account the entire picture. Judging safety performance solely on injury rates, for example, has several drawbacks, including the tendency to manipulate numbers to achieve positive results. Employees will hide an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recordable injury to win a safety reward for remaining injury-free. Supervisors and safety directors may actually encourage cheating to influence the numbers if their evaluations (and bonuses) depend on these results.

As one may assume, when management encourages or allows cheating in the system, no one trusts the system, which in turn, diminishes support for the safety program. Behavior-based safety, on the other hand, provides opportunities to systematically track a variety of success indicators, rather than relying only on numbers. The ability to objectively and continuously measure program impact is, in fact, a special strength of behavior-based programs.

Finally, the seven factors presented in this article are common barriers to overcome if an organization hopes to achieve successful implementation of any site-wide safety program. If management commits to a program, presents and understands its principles, provides open communication and leaders to champion its cause, allows for employee ownership, and provides real achievable goals (and rewards), then the safety program has a solid architecture to provide its employees with a support system and a safe working environment.

This article first appeared on May 24, 2000, in Industrial Safety & Hygiene News, an online newsletter. The article was written by Scott Geller, Professor of Psychology at Virginia Tech, and senior partner with Safety Performance Solutions. This article has been edited for content.

NEW NIOSH SITE ON HEARING LOSS

The Center for Disease Control's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has created a new web site to address Hearing Loss Prevention (HLP). Site topics include background information about HLP; new discoveries and solutions; current research; resources and publications relating to HLP; and frequently asked questions (FAQs). To determine if this web site may be helpful to you, ask yourself the following questions:

- Have hearing protectors been made available to all employees whose daily average noise exposures are 85 dBA or above?
- Are employees given the opportunity to select from a variety of appropriate protectors?
- Are employees fitted carefully with special attention to comfort?
- Are employees thoroughly trained, both initially and at least once a year?
- Are ear protectors checked regularly and replaced if excessive wear and/or defects are present?
- If employees use disposable hearing protectors, are replacements readily available?
- Do employees understand the appropriate hygiene requirements?
- Have any employees developed ear infections and/or irritations with extended use of hearing protectors?
- Are there any employees on-site who cannot wear hearing devices because of medical conditions, and have these conditions been treated?
- Has management considered alternative types of hearing protectors when problems with current devices arose?
- Do employees who incur noise-induced hearing loss receive appropriate medical attention and intensive counseling?
- Are those who fit and supervise the wearing of hearing protectors competent to address any of a variety of problems that may occur?
- Do workers complain that protectors interfere with their ability to do their jobs?
- Do hearing protectors interfere with spoken instructions and/or warning signals?
- Are employees encouraged to take their hearing protectors home if they engage in noisy non-occupational activities?
- Does management consider replacing current hearing protectors with more effective models, as they become available?
- Is the effectiveness of the hearing protector program evaluated regularly?
- Have at-the-ear protection levels been evaluated to ensure that protection has been adequately balanced with anticipated ambient noise levels?
- Is every worker requiring hearing protection required to demonstrate that he or she understands how to use and care for the protector?

HLP

www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/noise/

Legislative News

Federal Actions

Bill	Sponsor	Bill Title	Summary	Status
S.216	Sen. John Edwards (NC)	Building Security Act of 2003	A bill to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop improvements in building and fire codes, standards, and practices, and reduce the impact of terrorist and other extreme threats to the safety of buildings, their occupants, and emergency responders; Department of Homeland Security to form a task force to recommend ways to strengthen standards in the private security industry, stabilize the workforce, and create a safer environment for commercial building and industrial facility occupants.	01/23/03: Referred to Senate committee — Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Improves upon current building codes to enhance the safety and security of public and private workers	
S.6	Sen. Thomas Daschle [SD]	Comprehensive Homeland Security Act of 2003	A bill to enhance homeland security and provide for other purposes similar in scope.	01/07/03: Referred to Senate committee— Committee on the Judiciary.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Supports the authority of agencies, including DOE, in the following areas: possession of unauthorized firearms, emergency response exercises, security of radiological and nuclear materials, appropriations for increased safeguard and inspection activities, participation in border and export controls program, reuse of Russian nuclear facilities, appropriations for proliferation prevention programs, appropriations for acceleration of highly enriched uranium disposition program, establishment of a cooperative program to secure, consolidate, and dismantle Russian tactical nuclear weapons.	
S. 157	Sen. Jon Corzine [NJ]	Chemical Security Act of 2003	A bill to help protect the public against the threat of chemical attacks.	01/14/03: Referred to Senate committee —Committee on Environment and Public Works.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Supports DOE and others by providing measures to reduce the possibility of terrorist and criminal attacks on chemical sources (e.g., industrial facilities), and theft of dangerous chemicals from chemical sources for use in terrorist attacks.	
S.131	Sen. Harry Reid [NV]	Nuclear Security Act of 2003	A bill to amend the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 to strengthen security at sensitive nuclear facilities.	01/09/03: Referred to Senate committee-- Committee on Environment and Public Works.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Supports the authority of agencies, including DOE, in the following areas: examination of the protection measures incorporated at sensitive nuclear facilities from potential terrorist threats, evaluation of employee security, protection of whistleblowers, possession of unauthorized firearms, and prevention of sabotage of nuclear weapons and fuel.	

Legislative News

Federal Actions

Bill	Sponsor	Bill Title	Summary	Status
S. 266	Sen. John Edward [NC]	Antiterrorism Intelligence Distribution Act of 2003	To provide for the access and handling by personnel of State and local governments of classified information to facilitate preparation and response to terrorist attacks, and for other purposes.	1/30/2003 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Intelligence.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Ensures that sufficient numbers of appropriate personnel of State and local governments, including personnel of law enforcement, rescue, fire, health, and other first responder agencies, receive security clearances for access to classified information of the Federal Government, and training in the handling of such information, to prepare for and respond to potential terrorist attacks.	
H.J.RES.2	Rep C.W. Bill Young [FL-10]	House of Representatives, Joint Resolution 2	To provide further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003.	1/07/2003: Introduced in the House. 2/20/2003: Became Public Law No: 108-7.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			Under Title III, provides for appropriations for various DOE programs pursuant to use, remediation and disposal of hazardous waste, environmental management, facility maintenance, DOE Administration operations, and energy programs, including certification requirements for obtaining funds.	
H.R.37	Rep Sherwood L. Boehlert [NY-24]	Department of Environmental Protection Act	To elevate the Environmental Protection Agency to Cabinet-level status and redesignate such agency as the Department of Environmental Protection.	1/7/2003 Introduced in the House. Referred to House Committee on Government Reform.
How does this affect the DOE Community?			It is unclear at this time how this will affect DOE facilities.	

Legislative News

U.S. GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES WWW.REGULATION.GOV

On January 23, President Bush introduced www.regulation.gov. This new Web site expands electronic rulemaking to the entire government and general public. The goal is to enable anyone with a computer and Internet access to find every federal regulation that is open for comment, read it and submit their views and comments.

www.regulation.gov

Homefront

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE - STAY ABREAST OF INDUSTRY RE-CALLS

- *Recall of Phenylpropanolamine (PPA)*
- *Britax Has Recalled Advantage Child Seat*
- *Purdue Pharma L.P. Recalls Various OxyContin Labels*
- *Carter's® Recalls 600,000 Infant Jumpsuits*
- *Emess Lighting Inc. and SLI Lighting*
- *Solutions Inc. Recall Twister Portable Lamps*
- *York Pharmaceuticals recalls aspirin tablets under many retail names*
- *Burger King and Alcone Recall 2.6 Million Kids Meal Toys*
- *Whirlpool Has Recalled Microwave-Hood Combinations*
- *8 Firms Recall 835,000 Zapper Toys*
- *Additional Firestone Wilderness AT Tires Have a Safety Defect*

Safety Alerts

www.safetyalerts.com

UNDERSTANDING THE HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM

The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. At all Threat Conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks. The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested Protective Measures, recognizing that the heads of Federal departments and agencies are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate agency-specific Protective Measures.

Low Condition (Green)

This condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:

- *Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;*
- *Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and*
- *Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.*

Guarded Condition (Blue)

This condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- *Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations,*
- *Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures, and*
- *Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.*

Elevated Condition (Yellow)

An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- *Increasing surveillance of critical locations;*
- *Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;*
- *Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and*
- *Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.*

High Condition (Orange)

A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- *Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;*
- *Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;*
- *Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and*
- *Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.*

Severe Condition (Red)

A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- *Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;*
- *Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;*
- *Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and*
- *Closing public and government facilities.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DHS | Department of Homeland Security | Homeland Security Advisory System

MEASURES TO BETTER PREPARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL SECURITY EMERGENCY

DHS | Department of Homeland Security | National Security Emergencies

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Citizen Corps: How You Can Be Safer

DHS | Department of Homeland Security | Emergencies & Disasters

American Red Cross- Homeland Security Advisory System

FEMA: Are You Ready? A Guide to Citizen Preparedness

Upcoming Events

2003 SITE SAFETY AND HEALTH FAIRS/EVENTS

April

INEEL	April -May Traveling	"Farm Safety Day with Children"
	April -May Traveling	"School Safety Assemblies"
	April -May Traveling	Car Crash Scenario
	April 26	"Partnership for Safe Children"

May

Richland	May 6 - 8	Hanford Safety and Health Expo

June

WIPP	June (TBD)	Annual Safety Fair
West Valley	June 25	Safety and Health Fair
LANL	Through June 26	Community Safety and Security Day

July

Oak Ridge	July 30	Safety Expo
	1 day (TBD)	Driving Course
	1 day (TBD)	Kids Fair

NEWS BRIEFS

WEST VALLEY NUCLEAR SERVICES COMPANY

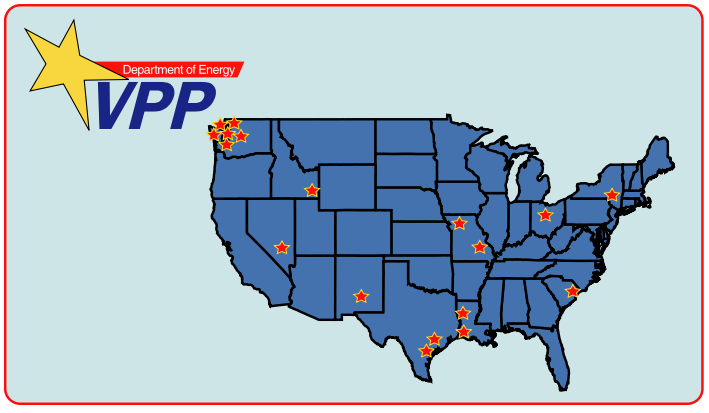
West Valley Nuclear Services Company maintains Star status. West Valley Nuclear Services Company, a two-time recipient of the DOE VPP Star of Excellence Award has continued to be a leader by example with its commitment to worker health and safety while carrying out its mission for the DOE. The company was first recognized as a DOE-VPP STAR site in 1999 and was recertified in February 2003.

HAMMER

For its commitment to worker health and safety, the U.S. Department of Energy Headquarters (DOE-HQ) Voluntary Protection Program officially award Star status to the HAMMER and Hanford Training organization on September 19, 2002. The Hammer and Hanford Training organization is the first training organization in the nation to receive the prestigious award.

NUCLEAR MATERIAL STABILIZATION PROJECT/PLUTONIUM FINISHING PLANT

DOE is proud to welcome the Nuclear Material Stabilization Project/Plutonium Finishing Plant (NMSP/PFP) at the Hanford Site into the DOE-VPP. NMSP/PFP has the enormous responsibility of safeguarding Special Nuclear Material. NMSP/PFP was recognized by DOE-VPP with Merit status in November of 2002.



*Article submission and feedback to: the **e-VPP Starburst** may be sent to Carlos Coffman, DOE, EH-51, at carlos.coffman@eh.doe.gov, or call 301-903-6493.*